

The Origin of the Cuban Rebellion.

The Boston *Traveler* has received an authentic account of the massacre at the theater in Havana, which precipitated the revolution:

THE CAUSE.

On the evening of January 21st, 1869, the Cuban minstrels played at the Villanueva theater for the last time, and among other pieces they sang the "Good Negro," a work of their own composition. After the first strophe, Mr. Jabinto Valdes, one of the singers, making use of the right granted by the law published only a few days before, came out to the footlights of the stage, and taking off his Panama hat with which he was acting, exclaimed, "Hurrah for Charles Emanuel," the two Christian names of Cespedes, who rose first in Yara, in the eastern department of the island, on October 8th, 1868, and was then, as he is now, the chief of the revolution. After the second stanza the same minstrel stepped forward again and said, "Hurrah for independence!" and so on for three times more, with different shouting in each case, the joyful audience applauding enthusiastically.

TREATS.

The next day General Dulce made Mr. Lewis Nin come to the palace, and rather despotically blamed him for what had happened at the theater under his management. "I could not help it," the trembling man answered, "how can a manager prevent an actor from saying what is not in the programme, if he wishes to do it, when he is on the stage?" If such a thing happens again," the General warned him, "your neck will pay for it." "That is different altogether," Mr. Nin observed, "there is another company to play at the theater this evening; its director may give your excellency his word for it," Mr. Nin insisted, "but I cannot be responsible." "You shall," cried out the Captain-General of the island.

THE PLOT.

At nightfall of that day—the 22d—five hundred volunteers, with their guns and belts well filled with balls and powder, stole their way into the dry ditch—some hundred feet wide—of the inland fortifications of the city, a few steps from the theater, and hid themselves there, until they were called for by the firing of a pistol, as a sign. They knew very well there was a different company to play at Villanueva that evening, as it was widely advertised in the public papers; and they could reasonably consider, too, the spectators were not all the same who applauded the night before; but they were determined "to set an example," as they said. The house was full to overflowing.

ITS EXECUTION.

The doors were thrown wide open, and the volunteers crowding in at them began to shower balls indiscriminately over the whole audience, men, women and children, by the successive discharges of as many guns at a time as there was room for them to stand up. The armless gentlemen, being surprised in such a manner and unable to defend themselves and their families, only inquired the cause of the trouble; ladies in tears cried out to the assailers to stop their firing, but there was no answer to questions, no reply to supplications, except the balls to those far distant and the points of the bayonets to those near, while others out-doors were firing inward through the windows of the theater and Mrs. Nin's house. Her life, as well as her daughters' ran great risk. The assaulters did not dare to advance nearer the pit, or to go up stairs, as they were fearful of being shot by pocket pistols that might be in the hands of some of the terrified spectators. The people hid themselves behind the seats, and the volunteers seeing no other way to destroy them, or perhaps to raze the building, brought some gallons of spirits of turpentine to set the theater on fire, which was fortunately prevented through the timely interference of General Espinar, their inspector, and simultaneously of the vice Captain General of the island, who up to that moment was an indifferent witness of the slaughter.

WOMEN KILLED.

The remainder of the spectators began to leave the theatre, under the impression that they would not be fired at; but they were killed one by one, with few exceptions, as soon as they got out. A lady in blue was entirely undressed and driven home with the butt ends of the muskets; another that had a star on her headdress, was taken by the hair and her throat cut in an instant; a third, who was dressed in white, red and blue (the colors of the Cuban flag), was struck to the heart with numberless bayonets; many others who had their hair spread loosely, after the fashion, over their backs, were also killed in the same manner; a child with a red ribbon at the neck and a blue jacket was shot through the forehead. These are all facts, not to say anything of the language used on the occasion.

Finally an order was given to save those who were inside the theatre alive, provided they should answer, without hesitation, the cheers for Spain, in which case the men should be taken to jail; otherwise they should be killed on the spot, while ladies and children cheering the "mother country" would be set free.

SPECTATORS SLAUGHTERED.

I allow the majority of the spectators were sympathizers with the Cuban revolution, though such sympathy cannot be a reason, with civilized nations, to have their lives disposed of; but it is sure that some friends of the Spanish cause, who did not hear the word, secretly passed over to their companions, warning them not to go to Villanueva that evening, died too. Many country people, who happened to be in the city, profited by that accidental and fatal opportunity to amuse themselves at a theatrical performance, were victims also. The government agents were, all night removing and burying the dead, and notwithstanding all its efforts, in the morning there were seen dozens of carts, carrying the corpses to the cemetery, while the blood ran in rivulets in the theatre and all around, where small members of the bodies of the unfortunates were there giving testimony to the butchery of the night. It is understood that from four to six hundred men, women

and children (a son of the Count Palatine and his child among them) were massacred in the Villanueva slaughter, but it is impossible to ascertain their number, as there was no certificate to any of the burials, and the government did all in its power to hush the matter. Hundreds of families after that terrible night missed one or more members horribly and cowardly sacrificed to Spanish bigotry.

General Dulce was powerless to punish the wholesale crime, and this fact becoming public through the impunity of its perpetrators, encouraged them considerably to commit others. It was the right time for revenge; and from that night the firing of one or more guns was very often heard in the streets, and men fell like dogs to the ground, since patrols of volunteers, without chief or order, were seen everywhere "looking for the peace of the city," which none but themselves had so causelessly altered.

Lieutenant Wheeler--Items of his Trip to and From the Colorado.

Lieutenant Wheeler returned night before last to Hamilton from his expedition to the Colorado. From him we have obtained the following interesting memoranda: The final preparations having been made, guides, packer, etc., and such preliminary information as could be, having been obtained, the command moved from Hamilton, July 31. The leading features contemplated by the reconnoissance were to proceed eastward to Steptoe Valley; thence making south on such a line or lines as to obtain the principal topographical features as far east as the eastern boundary of the State; thence as far to the south as the Colorado river, examining the same as far as possible with regard to the practical head of navigation; then to return on a more westerly line, making as complete a survey of the territory lying between the latitudes of White Pine and the Colorado, and included between the one hundred and fourteenth and the one hundred and sixteenth degrees of longitude, as the circumstances would permit. Success, as far as traversing the entire extent, has been attained, and returning, the command made camp at the Monte Cristo mill, November 16. During this time, sixteen mining districts have been visited; twenty-three valleys traversed, each in nearly a longitudinal direction, and a topography acquired over a reconnoissance on a line of between sixteen and seventeen hundred miles, including all sections. Eight mormon settlements have been encountered during the trip, whose people vary from one hundred to six hundred in number. These commence in a valley to the eastward of Pattersob, and follow in a line generally northeast and southwest till St. Thomas, on the Muddy, the lowest one, is reached. The Colorado was reached at the mouth of the Rio Virgin, and from thence parties on this side of the river succeeded in reaching El Dorado Canyon, some seventy-five miles below; returning to the train at Los Vegas Ranch, after one of the severest marches of the trip. The general course of the mountains is northerly and southerly. On the downward trip, water and grass was generally in abundance, while upon returning, the reverse has been the rule. The most of the valleys are long and narrow, showing only limited areas fit for cultivation; but many of them have a vast number of acres of grazing land, which is generally found in the eastern slope of the mountains. Pahrangat Valley shows the greatest amount of agricultural land of any met on the route, and will amount to from fifteen to eighteen thousand acres, if properly handled. Timber of large size is found only at rare intervals; but in many sections nut pine, cedar, etc., abound and grow in the greatest profusion in the canyons and on the hills facing to the eastward of the ranges. Opposite the mouth of the Virgin, seems to be the only point at which a practicable route can be made in the most direct line to the section of Arizona in the vicinity of Prescott. At all other places but this and El Dorado Canyon, the mountains approaching, the river on the other side are exceedingly rough and precipitous, and none of the washes leading from the same are practicable. At present, the route being followed by parties going from White Pine to Prescott is via Quinn Canyon, the Crescent mill, near the line of the Pah Utah, Indian Springs and Las Vegas; below this, leaving El Dorado a little to the left, and crossing the river at Hardyville; thence following the road from Fort Mohave to Camp Whipple, Prescott. Most of the mines out from White Pine are undeveloped, and must remain so for some time, on account of inaccessibility and want of capital, provided a railroad is not soon built through to the South. Waiting for time, the results anticipated are certain to prove very great. No river of any magnitude is met with. The Virgin—excepting, of course, the Colorado—is the largest, a miserable, nasty, alkaline stream, unconfined to any regular bed, but finding its way between the walls of a sort of canyon, until its confluence with the Colorado is reached. The Muddy meets the Virgin at St. Thomas, and is little more than a creek, having its apparent rise in some springs that come out below Pahrangat Valley. The waters of Pahrangat Valley sink in Pahrangat Lake, and doubtless show themselves again in the source of the Muddy. Many creeks rise in the mountains and sink. The ratio of arable land to the entire area is very small. Nevada can hardly be said to be an agricultural State, but as a mineral bearing region, especially in silver, its equal is not to be found on the Pacific slope, and probably not in the world; looking, of course, to the legitimate development of places that make a surface showing. Returning, Camp Halleck will be reached about the 25th of November, where the escort and transportation will be turned over, and the officers commanding the expedition, with the professional corps, will proceed to San Francisco, at which place the maps and report to be connected therewith will be made up. The whole command are in good health, but generally wearied, and the journey has been especially severe on the stock, fully one third of the animals having perished on the route. Lieutenant Wheeler estimates the distance from Hamilton to the Colorado at two hundred and twenty five miles, and says a railroad could be built on half a dozen lines without any serious impediment. His report, which will probably be finished in a few weeks, will be full of interest, especially to dwellers in this portion of Nevada.—*Inland Empire.*